

SNC Reference Number  
(enter if previously assigned)

**SNC 080133**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

**County: Sierra County**

**Applicant: The Pacific Forest Trust**

**Project Title: Meadow Ranch Conservation Easement**

## **PROJECT GOAL**

The project goal is to acquire a conservation easement on the 237-acre Meadow Ranch in Sierra County, CA to permanently protect it as a working ranch while conserving its significant water resources (Fletcher Creek, Spring Channel, and 168 acres of wet meadows) and its rich wildlife habitat.

## **PROJECT SCOPE**

The Meadow Ranch is located in one of the Pacific Forest Trust's (PFT) focal areas- "The Southern Corridor of Working Forests." This corridor plays a critical role in the ecological and economic health of the Sierra Nevada's largest alpine wetlands, the Sierra Valley, by providing approximately half of the Valley's water supply in addition to critical wildlife habitat connectivity. PFT has been working to protect this corridor of highly significant private lands for 10 years; we have successfully protected 2,700 acres and are currently working closely with landowners to protect an additional 4,000 acres. These protected properties will create a corridor of working landscapes that not only maintain the historic and scenic character of the Sierra Valley, but will also provide important wildlife habitat to a number of special status species and further protection to the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River. The Meadow Ranch property is a key piece to this protection effort. Located along the boundaries of the city of Calpine, this ranch has experienced significant residential development pressures and is currently slated to be subdivided and developed into 30 high-end residential sites. The successful acquisition of a conservation easement on this property will not only prevent development on this site, but it will help curtail the development that is creeping down Highway 89 from Calpine and into the Corridor of working lands that PFT and our conservation partners have been working to protect.

The project scope under the proposed Sierra Nevada Conservancy Competitive grant would be to cover a portion of the acquisition cost for the conservation easement on Meadow Ranch. The landowner and the

**Sierra Business Council have provided funding to cover the pre-acquisition costs, and the additional acquisition funding required to complete this project is being sought from the Wildlife Conservation Board.**

### **LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

**Protection of the Meadow Ranch is a high priority of the Pacific Forest Trust and our conservation partners working in the Sierra Valley. We are working closely with these other partners and have received some financial support from the Sierra Business Council to help cover the pre-acquisition costs associated with the project. We are submitting two letters of support for the project: 1) Bruce D. Barnett, Ph.D.- Environmental Consulting & Regulatory Compliance Services and 2) Melinda Peak- Peak & Associates, Consulting Archeology.**

### **SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Sign Grant Agreement with SNC	May 2009
Secure Acquisition Funding from Additional Sources	November 2009
Submit 6-month progress report to SNC	November 2009
Write Escrow Instructions for Closing	December 2009
Ensure all Funding is in Escrow in Preparation for Closing	December 2009
Close and Record Conservation Easement	December 2009 or January 2010
Submit Final Report and Copy of Recorded Conservation Easement to SNC**	March 2010

\*\*It can take up to 60 days to get a recorded document back from Sierra County during busy months.

### **SNC PROJECT COSTS**

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Acquisition of conservation easement	\$1,000,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>